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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/088,237	03/18/2002	Gregory Bores	2267.507WOUS	1703
24113	7590	04/13/2004	EXAMINER	
PATTERSON, THUENTE, SKAAR & CHRISTENSEN, P.A. 4800 IDS CENTER 80 SOUTH 8TH STREET MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55402-2100			FOSTER, JIMMY G	
		ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER	
		3728	S	
DATE MAILED: 04/13/2004				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/088,237	BORES ET AL.
Examiner	Art Unit	
Jimmy G Foster	3728	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 26 January 2004.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-23 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) 1-4 and 10-23 is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 5-9 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
 6) Other: _____.

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1) Claims 1-4 and 10-23 are allowable.

2) Claims 5-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. In claim 5, line 14, there is no antecedent basis for "the handle", making the positively recited structure unclear. Related to this problem, claim 6 indefinitely doubly recites the handle set forth in claim 5, making it unclear how many handles are referred to by the claim.

3) The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. § 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless --
(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

4) Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Nyseth (5,711,427). Nyseth provides the following: a container at 20, a door frame 60, a door at 24, a front door cover at 86, a rear door cover at

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96, latch receptacles at 72,74, a latching portion at 118, a motion translation portion at 110,120, and a handle actuation portion at 81. The handle actuation portion is capable of receiving robotic actuation.

The container includes wafer support shelves.

Figure 15 shows an embodiment with the front cover 86 removed. Accordingly, the translation portion is exposed.

5) Claims 5 and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Nyseth et al (5,915,562). Nyseth provides the following: a container at 20, a door at 24 or 224, latch receptacles at 72,74, a latching portion at 118 or 318, a motion translation portion at 110,120 or 310, and a handle actuation portion at 81 or 302. The handle actuation portion is capable of receiving robotic actuation.

The container includes wafer support shelves.

Figure 15 shows an embodiment with the front cover 86 removed. Accordingly, the translation portion is exposed.

Regarding claim 6 of Applicant, the embodiment of Figures 18A,18B,19A,19B,20 and 21, shows the front cover 285 or 286 removed. Accordingly, the translation portion 310 is exposed. The disclosure of this embodiment (see column 6, lines 33-35) is described as including the manually operable handles 302, which are of the type shown in the embodiment of Figure 16, and as including an insertable key hole, which is key hole 278, also shown in Figure 16. Accordingly , claim 6 is anticipated by the reference of Nyseth et al.

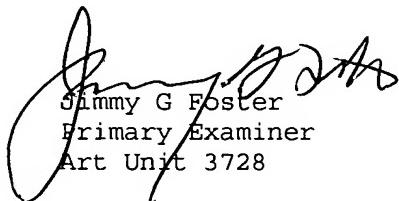
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6) Claims 7-9 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112 and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

7) Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jimmy G Foster whose telephone number is (703) 308-1505. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri, 8:45 am - 5:15 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mickey Yu can be reached on (703) 308-2672. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1148.



Jimmy G. Foster
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3728

JGF
12 April 2004